



Photo by Sean Kief

Welcome to APG

(From left) Brig. Gen. John S. Regan accepts the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command colors from ATEC Commander Maj. Gen. Genaro J. Dellarocco as Command Sgt. Maj. Carlton Handy, U.S. Army Developmental Test Command, and David Jimenez, director of the Army Evaluation Center, look on during the change of responsibility ceremony at the ATEC headquarters Bldg. 2202 Aug. 15. Regan assumed the role of deputy director from Brian Simmons, former executive technical director/deputy to the commander. **Read the full story in next week's APG News.**

AEC employees awarded for groundbreaking test event



Courtesy photo

An M2A3 Bradley commander is equipped with the Mounted Soldier System (MSS) during the pilot test at the Network Integration Evaluation held at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., in June and July. The exercise was the first in a series of semi-annual evaluations designed to integrate and mature the Army's tactical network. Thirty-one different systems (six under test and 25 under evaluation) were exercised as part of a network by the 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division. Nearly 800 ATEC Soldiers and employees were onsite to capture the results of system and network performance.

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

The U.S. Army Evaluation Center awarded 46 Soldiers and civilians for their outstanding performance in support of groundbreaking testing that will fundamentally change the way capabilities are delivered to the Soldier during a town hall meeting at the Post Theater Aug. 2.

David Jimenez, director of the U.S. Army Evaluation Center, and DTC Command Sgt. Maj. Carlton Handy presented the awards.

Network Integration Evaluation

The Network Integration Evaluation (NIE) is the first in a series of semi-annual evaluations designed to integrate and mature the Army's tactical network. The first event was conducted over a six-week period in June and July, and involved 3,800 Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division. Its purpose was to conduct parallel limited user tests of several Army programs of record and to less formally evaluate developmental and emerging network capabilities. The exercise also assessed non-networked capabilities. The 2011 exercise was the first of this type of combined test and evaluation and demonstrates the Army's holistic focus to integrate network components simultaneously in one operational venue.

The NIE exercise took place at the Fort Bliss, Texas, White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. It was the largest event of its kind undertaken by the Army.

Noting that AEC is the largest evaluation organization in the Army, Jimenez praised the knowledge, professionalism and expertise of the Soldiers, civilians and contractors of Army Test and Evaluation Command organizations.

During a question-and-answer session after the ceremony, Jimenez discussed NIE and what it means to the Army.

Why are AEC employees being recognized?

Jimenez: We are recognizing AEC efforts in the Network Integration Evaluation test exercise and for their contribution to the team ATEC participation in the exercise.

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Lynyrd Skynyrd, Doobie Brothers to light up APG

By **YVONNE JOHNSON**
APG News

Come out and enjoy some classic music with Family and friends this Saturday, Aug. 20, as the Army Concert Tour featuring the legendary Lynyrd Skynyrd, the unparalleled Doobie Brothers and pop songstress Dilana kicks off at Aberdeen Proving Ground's Shine Sports Field. Gates open 6 p.m. and the show starts 7 p.m.

Tickets are still available at \$30 but increase to \$40 the day of the show, according to MWR marketing manager, Chris Lockhart.

"As of Tuesday, Saturday's weather forecast calls for mostly sunny skies with highs in the mid-80s, which will be a welcome change after last weekend's soaking," Lockhart said. "The weather is looking good and we're expecting a great turnout so fans shouldn't wait until prices go up on Saturday to get their tickets. Put on your dancing shoes and come on out. We'll be looking for ya!"

Seating is blanket or lawn chair. Sales are over-the-counter only at the APG North

See MAKE, page 10

CFC fair to feature local charities

CFC Office

The commencement of Aberdeen Proving Ground's 2011 Combined Federal Campaign is just around the corner. The campaign will officially begin Sept. 1 and run through Dec. 15.

The annual CFC Charity Fair will be held Aug. 30 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the APG North recreation center. All are invited to attend the charity fair featuring forty local charities. No donations will be requested during the fair.

"This is a very special year, as this is the fiftieth anniversary

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WEATHER

Thurs.



83°|67°

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Aviation unit honors lives of crew lost in Afghanistan crash

Story and photo by
HEATHER GRAHAM-ASHLEY
III CORPS & FORT HOOD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In early August, information about their deaths saturated the news, but Aug. 13 and 14 was about how they lived.

Five Soldiers -- Sgt. Alex Bennett, Chief Warrant Officer 4 David Carter, Spc. Spencer Duncan, Staff Sgt. Patrick Hamburger, and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Bryan Nichols -- were killed Aug. 6 when their CH-47 Chinook helicopter crashed in Wardak province, Afghanistan.

Twenty-five sailors and airmen and eight Afghans perished in the crash, the largest single loss of American troops since Operation Enduring Freedom began.

Their loss was mourned and their lives were honored during a ceremony Aug. 13 at Comanche Chapel on Fort Hood during the unit's drill weekend and at another ceremony Aug. 14 in Olathe, Kan.

In Olathe on Sunday, a ceremony reminiscent of the one at Fort Hood was held in the unit's hangar and was attended by friends and family members of the fallen troops as well as Patriot Guard Riders, members of a local Boy Scout troop, the Gardner, Kan., Fire Department and members of an area Veterans of Foreign Wars Post.

The five fallen were deployed to Afghanistan with the Spartans of Company B, 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, which is headquartered at Fort Hood.

They were sons, fathers and husbands who loved serving their country.

At both ceremonies, Lt. Col. James Fitzgerald, battalion commander, 7-158th Avn. Regt., eulogized his fallen Spartans, paralleling their bravery and warrior skills with those of the warriors in ancient Sparta.

"They loved their families. They loved what they were doing and who they were doing it with," Fitzgerald said. "They loved their freedom."

As Army Reserve Component warrior citizens, Bennett, Carter, Duncan, Hamburger, and Nichols chose civilian careers and activities while also walking the path of warriors, the battalion commander said.

They overcame any fear to save others in need.

"They did not lose their lives, they gave them," Fitzgerald said. "They loved their families and their brothers-in-arms when they were in need enough to put aside their own lives and to serve others."

The five Spartans were different in several aspects, but had at least one commonality. All had a deep love for serving their country.

Carter was an experienced aviator with more than 4,500 flight hours and



A fallen memorial to five U.S. Soldiers killed Aug. 6, 2011, in a CH-47 Chinook helicopter crash rests near a similar helicopter in a hangar in Olathe, Kan., Aug. 14 during a memorial ceremony honoring them. The Soldiers killed were: Sgt. Alex Bennett, Chief Warrant Officer 4 David Carter, Spc. Spencer Duncan, Staff Sgt. Patrick Hamburger, and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Bryan Nichols.

more than 700 of those hours flown in combat throughout his 28-year military career.

He was a gentle soul and a man of integrity, Maj. Steve Gambichler said.

A native Kansas, Carter was senior instructor pilot with the Colorado National Guard.

Echoing the words of a childhood friend of Carter, Gambichler said, "He was the kind of man the rest of us will aspire to be."

In addition to the deployment to Afghanistan, Carter previously served in Iraq and in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina.

He leaves his wife, Laura, and two children, Kyle and Kaitlen.

Nichols was a skilled pilot, an exceptional officer and a great friend, Lt. Col. Richard Sherman said. Sherman served with Nichols since the pilot was a warrant officer 1.

"Bryan left us as he lived - serving his country and flying Chinook helicopters," Sherman said.

He came to the unit straight out of flight school and eager to fly. Good-natured and well liked by his peers and crew members, Nichols never just thought about himself.

"He is part of one of my most painful and most cherished memories in my Army career," Sherman said.

His wife Mary and 10-year-old son Braydon survive Nichols. Braydon's desire for the public to know about his father has touched the nation.

Hamburger enlisted in 1998, shortly after graduating from his Lincoln, Neb., high school. He volunteered to join the Spartans in Afghanistan.

Known as "Patty" to his friends, Hamburger was planning to marry his

fiancée Candy Reagan following the deployment.

Hamburger was posthumously promoted to staff sergeant, according to the Department of Defense.

He leaves behind his daughter, Payton Elizabeth.

Forward and honest, sometimes painfully so, people always knew where they stood with Bennett, Capt. Matthew Williams said. The 23-year-old flight engineer could find humor in any situation.

Known for his love of working on cars and a proclivity for pranks, Bennett changed over the last year, Williams said.

"He had grown up," the captain said. "Alex attacked life with unmatched gusto."

To his platoon sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Kirk Kuykendall, Bennett was like a son.

"He loved to eat and play board games," Kuykendall said.

The two first met in 2009 at Fort Sill, Okla. Kuykendall was new to the unit and Bennett was one of the first to introduce himself. Later, Bennett followed Kuykendall to become a Spartan.

At the Kansas ceremony, Kuykendall also recalled Bennett as a prankster whose hijinks often got him in some trouble, but kept his friends entertained.

"He paid the price for his unit's high morale," Kuykendall said.

The platoon sergeant was medically evacuated from Afghanistan about six weeks ago when he was injured in a Chinook crash on June 25. Nichols was one of the pilots on the aircraft, but he was not wounded.

Kuykendall kept tabs on Bennett and heard that the young man had matured during the deployment and was thriving.

"He knew how important the mission was and that it had to continue, even at a time of loss," Kuykendall said. "He inspired a group of very young Soldiers to stay in the fight when things were getting tough."

Bennett lived the company motto of "With it or on it," and many tributes to his memory bear the expression.

"Alex died a patriot and a hero," Kuykendall said.

He is survived by his mother, Kim Robinson, and his father, Lt. Col. Doug Bennett.

A proud "good ole boy," Duncan enlisted shortly after graduating high school in 2008.

He loved playing guitar and going "muddin'," Staff Sgt. Craig Wehr said during the memorial at Fort Hood.

Duncan's friends said he was never meant to go to school.

"He was made for the Army," Chief Warrant Officer 5 Michael Walsh said at the Kansas ceremony. "He was made to be a mechanic."

From taking apart and then reassembling the TV remote as a child to working on vehicles and Chinooks, Duncan "had a natural ability to take anything apart and put it back together," Walsh said.

More than anything else, Duncan loved serving his country.

"He wanted to fight for the rights of others so they wouldn't have to fight for themselves," Walsh said.

Duncan passed along his long for service to his younger brother Tanner who is completing basic training and will soon join the Spartans as well, continuing his brother's legacy.

His parents and younger brothers, Calder and Tanner survive Duncan.

During both traditional military memorial ceremonies, the 1st Cavalry Division honor guard fired a 21-gun salute, and a lone bugler from the division played taps, which brought tears to the eyes of many in attendance. Members of the Navy SEALs also had a presence at the ceremonies.

Carter, Nichols, Hamburger, Bennett and Duncan left a heritage of service to the nation and selfless brotherhood, putting others before one's self, Fitzgerald said. He urged others to continue what they started.

"We can pay them no greater honor than to cherish that sacrifice and legacy they died for, that of freedom," Fitzgerald said. "We must make it clear we are committed to its preservation, whatever the cost."

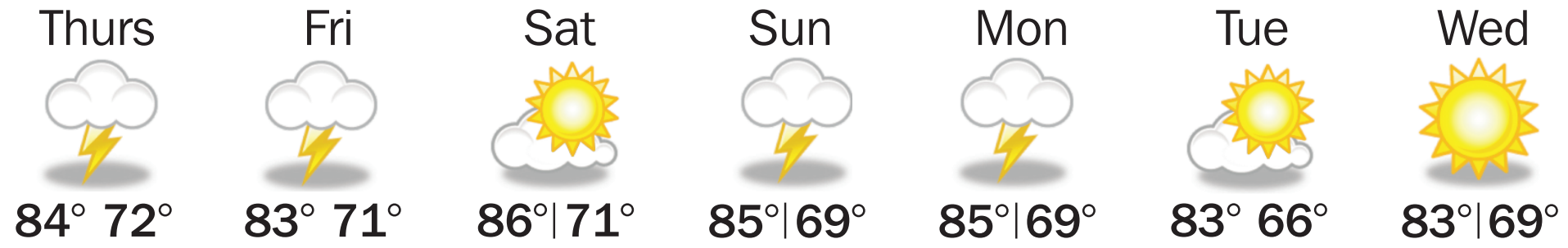
“They did not lose their lives, they gave them. They loved their families and their brothers-in-arms when they were in need enough to put aside their own lives and to serve others.”

Lt. Col. James Fitzgerald
7/158th Aviation Regiment

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Lt. Col. James Fitzgerald
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APG SEVEN DAY FORECAST



APG NEWS

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OPINION

Scrambler defeated by eight-sided weekend

I used to claim that after deployment our Family was like a merry-go-round. We had to slow the “ride” so that Brad could jump back on. Brad scoffs at that now. “This is no merry-go-round,” he snarled. “This is the Scrambler!”

The guy has got sumpin’ there. For those of you who did not grow up at King’s Island, the Scrambler is that horrible amusement park ride that twirls you in two directions at once, whonking your entire group from one side of the car to the other, snatching you back from the edge the moment you think you are getting somewhere.

Geez, just thinking about it makes me long for some Tums for my tummy.

Brad, too. So we started talking it out, trying to figure out how to slow the Scrambler down long enough for Brad to jump back on, especially when he is a geographic bachelor and only comes home on weekends.

We quickly discovered what so many military Families already know: there IS no slowing the Scrambler. There is no catching up with it mid-stream. There is no stop to the onslaught of deadlines and traffic and summer jobs and shipyard schedules and Family visits and summer reading assignments and ever-ripening tomatoes and the chase of getting the nine-year-old off the couch with video games and the 17 –year-old off the couch with his new girlfriend.

“Maybe we are on the wrong ride,” I suggested.

“Maybe we should get rid of the couch,” Brad replied. “Then again, maybe we need to remember that it is only a two minute ride. We just gotta be better prepared.”

And he is right. In military life, a Family’s turn on the Scrambler really is a temporary thing. So what could we do temporarily to prevent the dizziness and nausea and hot distemper that come with riding this ride? We already knew that the only way to combat the chaos of military life was to figure out



“We quickly discovered what so many military Families already know: there IS no slowing the Scrambler. There is no catching up with it mid-stream. There is no stop to the onslaught of deadlines and traffic and summer jobs and shipyard schedules and Family visits and summer reading assignments and ever-ripening tomatoes.”

systems and then stick to them. Clearly, the system that used to work in our merry-go-round days were not going to work here.

“I just wish the weekend was longer,” Brad sighed.

And that’s when I remembered reading in one of those lady mags that you should divide your weekend into six parts--Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon, Saturday evening and Sunday morning, Sunday afternoon and Sunday evening. Each part of the weekend was supposed to be assigned only one task. This was a pretty good suggestion. For civilians.

I proposed to Brad that our military weekend had to be different, longer, more structured. It ought to have eight parts. When the present weekend must make up for all those missed weekends of deployment, it needs eight parts. So we added Thursday night and Friday night to the weekend. Thursday night was our planning night to talk on the phone about what was going on in the Family and what needed to happen on the weekend as well as what we wanted to happen on the weekend. Then Friday night was a designated nap night and late dinner. Then each of the other six parts had its own purpose.

Somehow just having the plan made me feel better. Not quite back on the merry-go-round. Not exactly caught up in the beauty of the carousel. But now we are back in the park. Riding all the rides. And doing exactly what we are meant to be doing.

Jacey Eckhart
CinCHouse.com

About Jacey

As an Air Force brat, Jacey Eckhart grew up swearing she would never enter the military or marry anyone who did.

Of course, she married the first Navy guy she ever met. Eighteen years later, she and her husband Brad have moved 13 times. Tackled five deployments. Raised three kids. And Jacey has written over 400 columns that encourage,

empower and entertain military Families everywhere. Jacey is a military life consultant in Washington, DC. She is the author of “The Homefront Club” and the voice behind the award-winning CD “These Boots.”

To read more, visit cinchouse.com, where military wives and women in uniform are commanders in chief. Facebook Jacey or contact her at jacey@jaceyeckhart.com.



Coming up...

A murderous Jonathan Brewster, played by APG's Brett Comer, attacks an unsuspecting Elaine Harper, played by APG's Alyssa Buxbaum. The two installation employees and veteran actors were performing in an MWR-sponsored production of Arsenic and Old Lace at the post theater Aug. 6. They, along with other members of the MWR theater club, are currently reading scripts for their next performance, slated for early December. The theater club is seeking new members. No experience necessary. "Several of our current actors do have experience, but many do not," said the club's director Tricia Devine. "Whether you've performed on the stage or not, one thing's for sure--this is a really fun group of people and we're having the time of lives." Devine said the club is in need of actors, carpenters, singers, stagehands, and various skill sets. She said Arsenic and Old Lace, the club's debut performance, was well attended and club members are looking forward to their Christmas production. To join, email Devine at triciadev@hotmail.com.

Photo by Jim Foard



Photo by Jennifer Carroll

(From left) Joppatowne High School Homeland Security teacher Zack Lovelace, ECBC Materials Scientist Dr. Christopher Karwacki, ECBC Packaging Specialist Karyn Rafferty and Elkton High School lead science teacher Alison Hapka (not pictured) design a working model of a nanoscale imaging apparatus during interdisciplinary STEM training.

ECBC scientists, engineers train with local school teachers

ECBC

Advocating an interdisciplinary STEM education approach, scientists and engineers from the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center shared their expertise with local teachers during teacher professional trainings over the summer.

To effectively prepare students for the jobs of the future, the ECBC, also known as the nation’s principal research and development center for non-medical chemical and biological defense, continues to support neighboring middle and high school teachers in fostering a workforce that is literate in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

ECBC offered more than 25 local teachers the opportunity to participate in two three-day professional development initiatives sponsored by the National Defense Education Program and led by nCASE - the National Conferences on Aviation and Space Education. Contributing their real-world experiences to the program, nine scientists and engineers from ECBC trained side by side with participating educators.

Teachers from Cecil County Public Schools and one guest teacher from Harford County Public Schools dedicated some of their summer break to the advancement of STEM education in the classroom, expanding their repertoire of inquiry and design-based teaching methods.

ECBC participants aimed to equip teachers with innovative STEM resources to supplement the traditional curriculum with hands-on lessons in emerging technologies such as polymers, food packaging and nanotechnology.

“These types of training opportunities are simply fabulous,” said Cecil County Public Schools Science Instructional Coordinator Frank Cardo. “They allow teachers to interact with Army scientists that apply STEM concepts in national laboratories every day.

“Ultimately, we hope to excite our students about STEM career opportunities that will become available in their community and to ensure that they exhibit the skills required to fill the jobs of the future.”

Divided into trans-disciplinary working groups, ECBC subject matter experts challenged teachers to find solutions for real-world problems through STEM discovery. This training approach allowed them [the teachers] to experience valuable techniques that help convey the relevance and application of science and

engineering concepts to their students.

“[The training] afforded us the opportunity to step out of our comfort zones and extend our normal realm of understanding, just as we expect our students to do,” said Northeast Middle School Teacher Jen Amma. “It reminded me what it feels like to be a student and [it] helps to bridge the gap between students and teachers.”

“ECBC’s subject matter experts were able to think of things in a scientific aspect and, therefore, served as a lens into the scientific world,” she continued. “At the same time, this training allowed us to apply mathematic formulas to real-world problems.”

The nanotechnology training sessions, for example, enabled teachers and Army subject matter experts to collaboratively explore the interdependence between material properties and their size, nanopatterning with lithography, as well as methods to amplify features at the nanoscale to the macroscale.

The teacher’s main challenge consisted of physically designing a working model of a nanoscale imaging apparatus. They engaged in creating a calibration curve by moving a cantilever on the millimeter scale and measuring its movement in the centimeter or decimeter scale.

ECBC subject matter experts that supported the teacher professional development initiative included Chemical Engineer Nichole Au, Biologist Janet Betters, Chemist Jonathan Grzeika, Materials Scientist Dr. Christopher Karwacki, Chemical Engineer Cindy Learn, Protective Equipment Test Branch Chief Mary McNally, Packaging Specialists Mary Peck and Karyn Rafferty, and Packaging Branch Chief Nancy Waltman.

To view a video of the nanotechnology training, visit: <http://bit.ly/nAWZ95>

ECBC is the Army’s principal research and development center for chemical and biological defense technology, engineering and field operations. ECBC has achieved major technological advances for the warfighter and for national defense, with a long and distinguished history of providing the armed forces with quality systems and customer service. ECBC is a U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command laboratory located at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. For more information visit the ECBC website at <http://www.ecbc.army.mil/> or call 410- 436-7718.

CECOM mission function transfer complete at APG

By **ANDRICKA THOMAS**
CECOM

Just five years ago, the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command personnel were tasked with a monumental undertaking...moving 93 years of communications-electronics equipment, personnel and mission domains to Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland.

“The bulk of the mission is now at APG,” said Michael Vetter, CECOM Logistics and Engineering director.

As the BRAC deadline approaches, July 31 marked the completion of moving all mission essential capabilities and equipment from Fort Monmouth to APG, well in time to meet the Sept. 15, 2011, deadline to close Fort Monmouth.

CECOM has shipped approximately 96 percent of the materials planned for relocation to APG in more than 750 truckloads containing office files, equipment, historical archives, wheeled and tracked vehicles, laboratory equipment and industrial fabrication machinery, according to Magdi Awad, contracting officer representative and manager for the BRAC Logistics Move Team.

“We planned, integrated and synchronized this move with all of the C4ISR Materiel Enterprise organizations leaving Fort Monmouth and Fort Belvoir,” said Charles Plumeri, Business Operations team lead for the BRAC Logistics Move Team. “The move had to be executed with minimal disruption to our support to the warfighter.”

CECOM was charged with managing the move on behalf of other C4ISR organizations also making the move to APG. Vetter credits the success of the move to the team effort between the BRAC Logistics Management Team, C4ISR Materiel Enterprise partners, the Army Corps of Engineers and contractor Team CACI, who executed the move and reconstitution requirements.

“The C4ISR community realized the importance of this orchestrated move, and senior leaders dedicated the appropriate resources to accomplish this incredible mission,” said Vetter.

After reaching out to the greater Army



Photo by Mike Allison

Subcontractors of CACI, Inc., load equipment and office items from the CECOM Software Engineering Center's Warfighter Information Network-Tactical laboratory into a moving van July 25.

community to research other large-scale Army logistical moves, Vetter found that CECOM's efforts in the move may serve as benchmarks for other commands facing the same challenge.

“After some research, we realized we were among the first Army organizations to lead such an effort. We had no other moves to reference for the planning and execution of a move of this large scale,” said Vetter. “So, we started from scratch,” said Vetter.

Some days, the CECOM BRAC Logistics Move Team had two to three meetings a day to ensure all move-related missions remained in synch, and in line with the planning process as well as provide oversight in the execution of the mission, Awad explained.

Vetter said that one of the challenges they faced in the planning phases was creating a process to move administrative areas and individual personnel moves.

“We maintained visibility on every step of this moving process,” said Vetter. “The most important asset we were

in charge of moving is our personnel. We wanted to make it as simple as possible for those relocating with the command.”

To overcome this challenge, the team developed the concept of Individual Personnel Moves. Every week a truck transported items from personnel workspaces at Fort Monmouth to APG, based on individuals' scheduled move dates rather than moving entire offices at one time, said Awad.

“This concept further enabled the command to conduct mission activities during the command's relocation while providing uninterrupted support to the warfighter,” said Awad.

But the biggest challenge during the process was in the transfer and reconstitution efforts of the command's specialized laboratories.

“We [worked] with contract experts to reconstitute laboratories that existed at Fort Monmouth that took years to build,” said Plumeri. “There were no instructions on how to take them apart and put them back together again. We needed the technical expertise in high-

ly specialized areas to rebuild the capabilities at APG.”

Along with contractor company CACI, the move team developed the concept of a re-locatable unit to keep labs functional, yet transferrable. A re-locatable unit is a laboratory or section of a laboratory that functions and could be relocated as a discrete unit.

“In many cases, shutting down an entire lab was not an option,” said Plumeri, “[...] so we divided and moved the labs in parts so support to the warfighter was never compromised or paused during the transition.” It took two years to relocate [elements of]

Fort Monmouth and Fort Belvoir to APG, a move conducted in phases moving 117 laboratories which were broken down into 332 discrete re-locatable units. By the end of this move, CECOM expects to have transported more than 820 truckloads of materials to APG.

“This was a group effort,” said Vetter. “We couldn't have done this without our team of dedicated personnel who understood the importance of maintaining the mission operations tempo to support the warfighter. Their hard work and expertise were invaluable to this effort and I thank everyone who helped make this move a success.”

Fort Monmouth will officially become an inactive installation Sept. 13, positioning CECOM to dedicate the new C4ISR campus facilities during a ceremony scheduled for Sept. 15. As the last crates are packed, buildings and computers are shutdown, one chapter comes to an end and another begins. The memories and legacy of Fort Monmouth and its contributions to the Army will be forever remembered.



Farewell to a battalion

(From left) Capt. Sandra Ross-Litaker, commander of Company B 143d Ordnance Battalion, accepts responsibility of her Soldier's personnel files from Carl Ketcherside, supervisor of the Training and Student Work Center in the garrison's human resources division. The unit was the last of the Ordnance units to depart APG, after a more than 90-year stay, and take up residence at the new home of Ordnance in Fort Lee, Va. in accordance with the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure law. Janet Dettwiler, garrison adjutant, said the final load consisted of 311 files.

"Today closes the final chapter on over 90 years of Ordnance affiliation and training at APG," Dettwiler said. "My staff greatly supported the mission of the Ordnance School for many years and they will be sorely missed."

Also in attendance were 143d Ordnance Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Steven Fletcher, battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Harold Ness and Company B 1st Sgt. Scott Gilbert.

Photo by Yvonne Johnson

Post Shorts

Back to School Ice Cream Social

Picerne Military Housing will host its 2nd Annual Back-to-School ice cream social Aug. 19. Aberdeen Proving Ground residents are invited to gather at the Picerne Neighborhood Office and APG South (Edgewood) playground for free ice cream, giveaways and raffles to win backpacks stuffed with school supplies. The event will be held from 2-4 p.m. at both locations. For more information, please call the Neighborhood Office at 410-305-1076.

Women’s Equality Day Awards program

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Women’s Program (FWP) will host the annual Women’s Equality Day Observance 1:30 to 3 p.m., Aug. 23, at the Ball Conference Center, Bldg. 3074. The FWP will honor the Outstanding Woman of the Year, Outstanding Supervisor/

Manager of the Year and Activity Most Supportive of FWP Goals.

For more information, call Sheryl Coleman, 410-278-5898.

Ripken Stadium to host Military Appreciation Night

Aberdeen Proving Ground will have a strong presence during the annual Military Appreciation Night festivities at Ripken Stadium in Aberdeen starting at 6 p.m., Aug. 25. The game starts at 7:05 p.m. A joint color guard from APG will post the colors during the national anthem; a video message from APG commander Maj. Gen. Nick Justice will be displayed on the Jumbotron, and Brig. Gen. Leslie Smith, commander of the 20th Support Command and Garrison commander Col. Orlando Ortiz and will throw out first pitches. Other activities include display booths by Army, Army Reserve and Marine recruiters as well as the Marine Corps League. Give-aways include Ripken t-shirts and

Chick-Fil-A souvenirs. Free tickets to the game are available to Soldiers and civilians. Contact HHC Garrison 1st Sgt. Sonya Jackson at 410-278-3000 for more information.

Maryland Women Veterans Conference Sept. 16; register by Aug. 25

The 2011 Maryland Women Veterans Conference will be held 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sept. 16 on the campus of Morgan State University at the University Student Center, 1700 East Coldspring Lane, Baltimore, MD 21251. Workshops, displays and vendor information will focus on Health Care/Screenings, Job Opportunities/Networking; Education Opportunities/College; relaxation and much more.

Early registration through Aug. 25 costs \$15; after Aug. 25 registration costs \$25. Women veterans, active-duty service members, Family members and agencies that service veterans

should attend. This event is sponsored by the National Center for Health Behavioral Change, A Step Forward, Inc., and AARP. For more information visit the NCHBC website at **www.nchbc.org** or call 410-383-4119.

CAC goes quarterly

Effective immediately, Community Action Council meetings will be held quarterly instead of monthly. No meetings are scheduled in August or September. The next CAC is in October on a date to be announced. Check the APG News or the APGLive blog site at **apg.armylive.dodlive.mil/** or **facebook.com/APGMd** for more information.



MORE ONLINE
More shorts can be seen at **www.apgnews.apg.army.mil** under **Shorts**.

Community Notes

THURSDAY AUGUST 18 CREATURES OF THE BAY

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will hold a Creatures of the Bay Cruise, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., for children ages 6 to 14, on the Skipjack Martha Lewis. See first hand some of the animals living in the bay. Find and identify the tiniest creature, terrapins, oysters and crabs, oh my! Tickets cost \$15 per person. Reservations are required.

For more information, for reservations or to purchase tickets, call 410-939-4078.

FRIDAY AUGUST 19 LIGHTHOUSE CRUISE

The Chesapeake Heritage Conservancy, Inc. will offer a narrated light-

house cruise, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., aboard the Skipjack Martha Lewis in Havre de Grace. Tickets cost \$30 for adults and \$15 for children ages 10 and under. Reservations are required. Cost includes a three-hour cruise enjoying water views of three area lighthouses: Concord Point, Turkey Point and Fishing Battery Island. Passengers need to bring their own lunch.

For more information, for reservations or to purchase tickets, call 410-939-4078.

SATURDAY AUGUST 20 SATURDAY CRITTER FEEDING

Eden Mill Nature Center, located on 1617 Eden Mill Road Pylesville, Md. will offer critter feeding for Families at 3 p.m. Join the staff at the nature center as they feed the critters. Take a turn feeding one of the turtles or a snake. Pre-registration is required.

For more information or to register, call 410-836-3050, email **edenmillnaturecenter@gmail.com**, or visit **www.edenmill.org**.

INSIDE/OUTSIDE YARD SALE

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, 201 Mount Royal Avenue, Aberdeen will hold an Inside/Outside Yard Sale, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Paul’s Fellowship Hall. The yard sale will be held rain or shine. Proceeds will benefit the 2012 St. Paul’s Youth Group National Youth Gathering. Cost is \$15 per space and includes two tables.

For more information or to reserve a space, call 410-272-3303.

SUNDAY AUGUST 21 HAYS HOUSE ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The Historical Society of Harford

County, Inc., will sponsor the annual Ice Cream Social, 1 to 4 p.m. at the Hays House Museum, 324 Kenmore Avenue Bel Air. This cost of admission is \$5 for adults; \$3 for students and seniors; and free for children 4 years old and under. A make-your-own ice cream sundae is free with admission. Ice cream will be provided from Broom’s Bloom Dairy and Prigel Family Creamery. Live music will be provided by Planxty Plaid, featuring fiddler JoAnn Appel and guitar player Jim Selway.

For more information, call the Historical Society, 410-838-7691 or email **HaysHouseMuseum@gmail.com**.



MORE ONLINE
More calendar events can be seen at **www.apgnews.apg.army.mil** under **Community Notes**.

FAMILY AND MWR

Medieval Times discount tickets available through Leisure Travel

The Leisure Travel Office has discount tickets for Medieval Times Dinner and Tournaments located at Arundel Mills Mall, 7000 Arundel Mills Circle, Hanover, Md. Tickets cost \$39.25 per adult and \$32 per child (ages 3 to 12). Reservations must be made at the time of purchase; other locations available upon request. All prices and savings are based on the final cost to include all taxes and fees. Prices are subject to change without notice.

Visit the MWR Leisure Travel Office, Bldg. 3326, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Mondays through Fridays and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call MWR Leisure Travel Office, Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, Bldg. 3326, 410-278-4011/4907 or email APGR-USAG-MWR-Leisure-Travel@conus.army.mil.

Starting a small business

The Army Community Service Employment Readiness Program will sponsor two sessions of How to Start Your Small Business, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Nov. 2 at Child, Youth and School Services, Bldg. 2503.

The free 90-minute program provides an overview of starting a business, successful entrepreneurship and how to write a strategic business plan.

The sessions are open to DoD cardholders, including contractors and retirees, and Family members and guests. Space is limited.

For information or to RSVP, call Marilyn Howard at 410/278-9669/7572.

Personal Training

APG Sports Branch is offering personal training programs. All active duty military and Family members, DoD civilians and Family members, and DoD contractors are eligible.

Training is offered at the athletic center, fitness center and Hoyle Gym to assist customers in meeting their personal fitness needs. The program is offered in individual half-hour and one-hour sessions and blocks of sessions. Individual half-hour sessions cost \$40 each; one-hour sessions cost \$55 each. Blocks of six half-hour sessions for the cost of five sessions is \$200; blocks of six sessions for the cost of five sessions is \$275

Contact the athletic center or Hoyle Gym for details.

Luray Caverns discount

Take a spin through time, 400 million years worth to be exact, to discover the amazing history of these unearthly caverns. Tickets cost \$18.25 for adults 13 years and older; tickets for children ages 3 to 12 cost \$9.25. Luray Caverns is located on 970 Highway 211 West, Luray, Va., in the Shenandoah Valley. Prices are subject to change without notice. Visit <http://www.luraycaverns.com/Plan-yourVisit/AboutLurayCaverns/tabid/507/Default.aspx>. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the MWR Leisure Travel Office at 410-278-4011/4907, visit the AA Recreation Center, Bldg. 3326 or e-

mail APGR-USAG-MWR-Leisure-Travel@conus.army.mil.

Discount Aquarium tickets

The Leisure Travel Office offers discount tickets to the National Aquarium in Baltimore. Adult tickets cost \$23.25 per person; tickets for children ages 3 to 11 cost \$17.50; active duty tickets cost \$19 each and are issued one per active duty ID card only. Tickets do not include the dolphin show or the 4D Theater, but are upgradeable at the aquarium. Take an unforgettable journey into the mysteries of water and the beauty of the natural world.

Watch brilliantly colored triggerfish explore a coral reef. Marvel as sharks glide through the shadowy depths just an arm's length away.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call the MWR Leisure Travel Office at 410-278-4011/4907, visit the AA Recreation Center, Bldg. 3326 or email APGR-USAG-MWR-LeisureTravel@conus.army.mil.

Board horses at APG Stables

The APG stables are a self-care boarding facility located in the Edgewood Area, Bldg. E5286, for privately owned horses of military and civilian employees, retirees and Family members.

All patrons must have a valid military or installation ID card.

- Monthly stall fees include:
- Four turn-out pastures
 - Lighted riding arena
 - Water troughs in each pasture
 - Run-in sheds
 - Barn with water and electricity
 - Tack rooms, grain room and hay storage provided

For more information or to sign up, call Outdoor Recreation at 410-278-4124 or visit www.apgmwr.com/recreation/odr/stables.html.

Universal Studios discount tickets

Universal Orlando® Resort is proud to offer a discount ticket program to all active duty, retired military and Department of Defense personnel. All Universal Studio tickets must be purchased at least 3 weeks before the trip.

Universal Studios includes two theme parks, non-stop nightlife and more all in one convenient location. At Universal CityWalk® enjoy the best in restaurants, nightclubs, shopping and movies.

For more information, call 410-278-4011 for price breakdown.

Looking for a job?

Visit FMWR Jobs available at www.apgmwr.com.

All jobs for Aberdeen Proving Ground are listed at <http://www.armycivilianservice.com> or check out AAFES Jobs link <http://odin.aafes.com/employment/> for additional job opportunities.



August bowling specials

- Early Bird Special: \$1.50 per game from 7 to 10 a.m. Plus \$2 shoe rental.
- Each Friday, 6 to 10 p.m., bowl one game for \$0.75 per game. Shoe rental costs \$2.

Bowling rates

Bowling costs \$3 per game, Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; games cost \$3.50 each on Fridays, 9:30 to 11

p.m.; Cosmic Saturdays cost \$3.75 per game; and \$3 per game on Sundays.

New hours for summer

Effective through September, The Bowling Center hours are 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday; 3 p.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday; the Bowling Center will be closed on Sundays. Holiday hours will be announced at a later date.

APG Bowling Center Snack Bar specials

Building 2342

Lunch delivery is available for orders of \$25 or more. Call for delivery before 11 a.m.

Week of August 15

Special #1: Roast beef sandwich on a kaiser roll with potato chips, cookie and regular soda for \$6.75.

Special #2: Pepperoni pizza sub with french fries, cookie and regular soda for \$6.50.

Week of August 22

Special #1: Tuna salad sandwich with potato chips, cookie and regular soda for \$6.75.

Special #2: Chicken tender sub with french fries, cookie and regular soda for \$7.25.

The Bowling Center also serves breakfast. For more information or to place an order, call 410-278-4041. Orders must be placed before 10:30 a.m.



Make it a Skynyrd/Doobies Saturday

Continued from Page 1

(Aberdeen) Recreation Center, Bldg. 3326, 410-278-2621, or APG South (Edgewood) Recreation Center, Bldg. E4140, 410-436-2713. Present a military ID or CAC card at time of purchase. Non-ID card holders can purchase tickets through TICKETMASTER.com.

Installation entry information

Persons attending the concert can enter the installation by either the Maryland (Route 715) Gate, accessible from Route 40, or the Harford (Route 22) Gate, accessible from either Route 40 or I-95. The Harford (Route 22) Gate will open 3 p.m. the day of the concert for entry onto the installation. The Maryland (Route 715) Gate is open continuously. Entry requires a valid photo ID (driver’s license, state/government issued ID with photo) for attendees age 18 and older. Those without a valid ID will be refused entrance. Any and all types of weapons are strictly prohibited. All persons and their possessions, to include vehicles, are subject to inspection by the Aberdeen Proving Ground Police Department.

2011 Army Concert Tour at APG



Lynyrd Skynyrd

In the summer of 1964, teenage friends Ronnie Van Zant, Allen Collins, and Gary Rossington formed the band “The Noble Five” in Jacksonville, Fla. The group settled on the name “Leonard Skinner”, a mocking tribute to a physical-education teacher at Robert E. Lee High School, Leonard Skinner, who was notorious for strictly enforcing the school’s policy against boys having long hair. The more distinctive spelling was adopted before they released their first album. In 1972 the band was discovered by musician, songwriter, and producer Al Kooper of Blood, Sweat, and Tears. Kooper signed them to MCA Records, producing their first album. “Lynyrd Skynyrd,” was released in August 1973 and featured the hit song “Free Bird,” which received national airplay, eventually reaching #19 on the Billboard Hot 100 charts. The band’s most popular single, “Sweet Home Alabama” followed in 1974 with the release of their second album, “Second Helping,” and reached to #8 on the charts. Other successes include the group’s best charting album “Gimme Back My Bullets,” in 1976 with the hits, “Double Trouble” and “Cry For the Bad Man,” and the 1975 single, “Saturday Night Special,” from the album “Nothin’ Fancy.” The 1977 album “Street Survivors” was the original band’s final collaboration. The album included the hit singles “That Smell,” “What’s Your Name” and “You Got That Right.”

Three days after its release, Van Zant, vocalist/guitarist Steve Gaines, his sister and backup singer Cassie Gaines, the pilot, co-pilot and road manager were killed in a plane crash en route to Baton Rouge, La. The group disbanded and eventually reunited with some original members, reforming in 1987 for a reunion tour with lead singer Ronnie Van Zant’s younger brother Johnny as the front man. Of its original members, only Gary Rossington remains with the band in 2011. Lynyrd Skynyrd was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on March 13, 2006.



The Doobie Brothers

What began as a free-wheeling Northern California band whose biggest followers were the Hell’s Angels became a polished group of recording artists eventually earning numerous Top 10 hits and a Grammy Award for Album of the Year in 1980 for “What a Fool Believes.” Today the group consists of founding members Tom Johnston and Pat Simmons, and 30 year-plus veterans John McFee and Michael Hossack. The group will perform classic hits like “Long Train Runnin,’” “China Grove,” “Listen to the Music,” “Black Water,” “Takin’ it to the Streets,” “It Keeps You Runnin,’” “You Belong to Me,” and others as well as hits from their 2010 CD “World Gone Crazy” which includes collaborations with Willie Nelson and former Doobie Brother Michael McDonald.



Dilana

For those not familiar with her acting rolls, Dilana might be best known for her success on the hit CBS reality show “Rock Star: Supernova” where she came in second to Canadian vocalist Lukas Rossi. Her first album, “Wonderfool” in 2000, led to four music videos and five singles. Her current CD, “InsideOut” on Kabunk Records, released in 2009, features guest artists, drummer Adrian Young of No Doubt and lead guitarist Mick Mars of Motley Crue. Dilana won the 2010 Best Actress award from both the American International Film Festival and the Action on Film International Film Festival for her leading role in Angel Camouflaged – a rock and roll drama directed by R. Michael Givens starring James Brolin and Warrick Grier and The Marshall Tucker Band. She also won the Best Use of Sound Award from the American International Film Festival for the nine original songs she composed and performed for the soundtrack.

CFC starts Sept. 1, ends Dec. 15

Continued from Page 1

ry of the CFC,” said the chairman of APG’s CFC, Richard Newcity of the Garrison’s Internal Review & Audit Compliance Office. “I’m so honored to be APG’s chairman on this golden anniversary. This year’s campaign slogan is ‘50 Years of Caring.’ Donors will have a choice of over 4,000 charities to choose from this year, each of which must go through a vigorous screening process to be accepted by the CFC. I anticipate that this will be our most successful year ever for two reasons: APG’s population has grown significantly due to the BRAC, and the continuous generosity of APG’s employees over the years has allowed us to remain the third largest campaign in the Chesapeake Bay Area region. It is that generosity that makes our community so proud of APG during these difficult economic times.”

Tell them you read it in the APG News

RDECOM, CERDEC inducts newest SES

By **EDRIC THOMPSON**
RDECOM CERDEC Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command welcomed its newest Senior Executive Service member during an induction ceremony at the Myer Auditorium, Aug. 12.

John Willison will serve as the director for the Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center's Command and Control directorate. He replaces Dr. Geraldo Melendez, who was named director for the Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center, June 20, 2010.

Willison, who will have 25 years of



Willison

service in October, previously served as the Technical Director for Project Manager Battle Command, Program Executive Office Command, Control, Communications – Tactical at Fort Monmouth, N.J. He was responsible for leading the technical program for all Army Battle Command Systems and development of the Battle Command technical vision, strategy, and architecture and managing execution of the system of systems engineering process.

At CERDEC C2D, he will lead an organization whose business and technology areas include information and knowledge management, portable and mobile power, platform integration and prototyping, environmental control systems, and position and navigation.

“We pause to honor individuals, such as John, for a tremendous achievement; his experience, hard work, and dili-

gence is always something that sets him apart,” said ceremony host Maj. Gen. Nick Justice, commander of APG and RDECOM.

“Your experience will be combined with some energetic folks in the labs who are changing the way we do things, to adapt command and control agility,” Justice said.

After thanking his family and Justice, Willison briefly discussed the importance of service and looking forward.

“I started at Fort Monmouth almost 25 yrs ago to this day. As I got immersed in the Army community, I recognized that sense of service throughout the community. I am honored and excited for this opportunity to serve RDECOM and CERDEC – organizations that have a great mission and do great work,” Willison said.

Willison has held several leadership

positions for the Army, primarily in the Communications-Electronics Life Cycle Management Command Software Engineering Center. These included Director of Advanced Battlespace Solutions and Director for Advanced Battlespace Solutions, Chief Information Officer and Chief Technology Officer.

He has been a member of the New Jersey State Commission on Science & Technology and a member of the Program Advisory Boards for the Monmouth University Software Engineering Department and Brookdale Community College.

He holds a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Lafayette College, a master's in Software Engineering from Monmouth College and he has completed the Senior Executive Fellows Program, John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

AROUND THE FORCE



N.Y. state government photo
Bath salts drug being abused.

Detective warns of new designer drug

By **RHONDA APPLE**
Pentagram Newspaper

Bath Salts are the new “designer drug” becoming increasingly popular on the streets.

Designer drugs are created to get around existing drug laws, said Chris Miller, chief of detectives on Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Va.

“Unlike Spice [another designer drug], we want to be ahead of the game with Bath Salts,” said Miller. “We’ve talked to the local police departments, and they’re seeing it and it’s only a matter of time before we see it here,” he said.

Miller said police surveillance will be conducted at shops where Spice was sold, to know if Bath Salts are available at these same locations.

He said Spice was first banned by The Old Guard Commander Col. David P. Anders. In May, the Drug Enforcement Agency exercised executive power to make Spice illegal to sell, distribute, possess and use.

“With Bath Salts, the packaging states, ‘Not fit for human consumption,’ the same as packaging for Spice,” he said. Miller also said packaging instructions include directions to use Bath Salts in baths to make one feel better, to have a nice aroma while taking a bath and to relax from the aroma of bath salts in hot water.

“None of this is true,” Miller added. “Bath Salts are believed to be a synthetic form of cocaine. It’s 100-percent man-made. Altered compounds within a chemical formula happen and they give the body the same effect [as cocaine].”

“A common symptom is flashbacks,” said Miller. He stressed that Bath Salts, which are usually snorted, “appear to be extremely addictive.”

Side effects include: increased heart rate; agitation; insomnia; lack of appetite; increased alertness; anxiety; fits and delusions; nosebleeds and nose burns; muscle spasms; blood circulation problems; increased blood pressure; kidney failure; seizures; risk of renal failure; hallucinations; aggression; severe paranoia; panic attacks; fluctuation in body temperature; muscle tension and twitches; jaw grinding; dilated pupils; violent rage; hot flashes; dysphoria; loss of bowel control; breathing difficulties; cravings; vasoconstriction; hypertension; chest pain; headache and suicidal thoughts.

“It’s being bought and sold the same as the traditional form of cocaine or ecstasy, in a powder form enclosed in foil packages,” said Miller.

“The cost is between \$20 and \$60 a gram, which would be traditional for a regular drug on the street.”

“Spice took us a bit by surprise on the base, so we want to be ahead of the game with Bath Salts,” said Miller.

“Commanders and first sergeants need to remind Soldiers that taking a designer drug is against Army regulations,” he stressed.

Miller said common brand names for Bath Salts include: Ivory Wave; Red Dove; Vanilla Sky; Bliss; White Lighting; Hurricane Charlie; Cloud 9; Ocean; Scarface; Bubbles; Purple Rain; Mint Mania; Recharge and Fly.

Walter Reed Army Medical Center cases colors July 27

By **J.D. LEIPOLD**
Army News Service

After more than a century of providing comprehensive health care to active and retired military personnel, along with their families, the Walter Reed Army Medical Center cased its colors -- officially closing its doors, July 27.

The largest Department of Defense medical center, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, or WRAMC, had been at the forefront of medical instruction, clinical research and patient treatment. It has grown to care for some 775,000 outpatients each year.

“I spent some of my proudest, most challenging and humbling moments both personally and professionally in the arms of Walter Reed Army Medical Center,” said Army Surgeon General and senior physician Lt. Gen. Eric B. Schoomaker, who reminisced about his early career as a young clinician aboard Walter Reed campus. “I stand before you with a heart burdened with sorrow, yet swelling with pride as we witness the colors of this command for the final time.”

As part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure announcement and a movement to make medical facilities joint-service, DoD proposed WRAMC be combined with the National Naval Medical Center on the grounds at Bethesda, Md. When the missions are combined, the new military medical complex will form the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

“I am confident that the values and commitment are shared by all who wear the cloth of the nation, our sister services in the Navy, the Air Force, the Marine Corps and the U.S. Public Health Service and our many members in the civilian corps,” Schoomaker said. “I have full faith and trust that the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center at Bethesda will embody the same transcendent care of loving care and healing and will proudly build upon the Walter Reed legacy.”

Patients currently at WRAMC in Washington, D.C., will be transferred to the Bethesda facility by the end of August.

The Walter Reed General Hospital first opened its doors in Washington, D.C., May 1, 1909. The facility was named after Maj. Walter Reed, the Army doctor who led the team credited with the discovery that yel-



low fever was transmitted by mosquito.

In 1951, the Walter Reed General Hospital was combined with the Army Medical Center that existed on the same campus. Together they formed the Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

At the casing ceremony for WRAMC, held under a white tent on the main parade field, more than 1,000 former staffers and students along with patients and wounded gathered to pay tribute to the Army landmark.

Secretary of the Army John McHugh praised WRAMC as a grand campus that symbolized the Army's unyielding commitment to the care and treatment of wounded warriors and that it was a place of hope throughout its 102-year history.

“The leaders and workers of Walter Reed Army Medical Center have always looked for new ways to aid in the recovery of our wounded in ground-breaking prosthetics to irreplaceable emotional support, and that, is truly what Walter Reed has always been about spirit, hope and compassion,” McHugh said.

When the Army vacates WRAMC, the 113 acres there will be split between the Department of State and the District of Columbia reuse commission.

Shinseki: New VA task force improves care of women vets

By **KAREN PARRISH**
American Forces Press Service

The newly formed VA Task Force on Women Veterans will go a long way in addressing key benefits gaps to female veterans, according to Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki.

While support for women veterans has improved, “it has not been enough,” Shinseki said during the 2011 National Training Summit on Women Veterans held July 16.

The task force’s “near-term mission,” he said, is to develop -- in coordination with VA’s Advisory Committee on Women Veterans, and in conjunction with the Defense Department -- a comprehensive VA action plan that will focus on key issues facing women veterans and the specific actions needed to resolve them.

Those issues include obstetric and gynecological care, childcare, military sexual trauma, homelessness, aging and end-of-life issues, among others, the secretary said.

A draft of the plan is due to Shinseki Jan. 1, 2012, and “will set our course for the next four years in everything we do, from planning to programming, to budgeting, to education and training,” he said.

The action plan will update and inform VA’s approach to women’s issues within its health care, benefits, and cemetery administrations, as well as the Women’s Advisory Report to Congress, due next July, the secretary said.

“Other changes are in the pipeline, such as our pilot

program to provide child care services,” he said.

Beginning this summer, Shinseki said, three new drop-in child care pilot programs for women veterans with VA appointments will open in Northport, N.Y., Buffalo, N.Y., and Tacoma, Wash.

Battlefield changes, such as increasingly blurred front lines, has increased VA’s attention on women veterans, Shinseki said.

Last month, a 20-year-old Army military police-woman, Spc. Devin Snyder, became the 28th female servicemember to die in Afghanistan when her convoy was attacked on a highway in eastern Laghman province, Shinseki said.

“Wars, with no clear front lines, put Soldiers -- all Soldiers-- at risk as never before, blurring the boundaries between combat and other than combat roles,” he said.

In recent years, VA has developed women’s primary care programs at health care facilities across the nation, and has hired program managers and coordinators to manage care for women veterans, the secretary said.

The department also has accelerated its women’s health research in biomedical, clinical sciences, rehabilitation, and health services, he said.

Most recently, Shinseki said, the VA launched a women veterans call-in center to directly solicit input into ways the department can improve its services.

“I want women veterans and women serving in uniform to see and know that VA is committed to fulfilling [their] needs,” he said.



Go to <http://ice.disa.mil>. Click on “ARMY” then “Aberdeen Proving Ground.”



Happy to help

Grocery manager Vida Martin (left) and cashier DeShawn Jones load bags of groceries destined for a local church onto pallets in the Post Commissary Aug. 11. The project was part of the Feds Feed Families food drive campaign, which encourages federal employees to bring non-perishable items to work for distribution to local food banks. The federal-wide goal is to collect 2 million pounds of food in August. The Department of Defense is committed to collecting 733,800 pounds of the total goal. The campaign runs through Aug. 31. The most needed items are canned vegetables, fruits, soups and proteins, such as tuna, salmon, chicken and peanut butter; cereals, pasta, paper products, personal hygiene and baby products and more. For more information, contact Diana Hayes, Army Community Service information outreach program coordinator, at 410-278-4372 or diana.k.hayes.civ@mail.mil.

Photo by Yvonne Johnson

AEC director see benefits of close interactions

Continued from Page 1

The exercise, which ran for six weeks, was the first structured effort to test, for the record, systems of systems in a realistic environment with Soldiers. We observed Soldiers using the systems, elicited direct feedback and measured performance. Two of our exceptional employees, Dr. Thomas Cao and Neil Brown, received four-star notes and coins from General Martin Dempsey, the Army Chief of Staff. Both were extremely surprised and [will] cherish the well deserved recognition. Moments like this really define a career of dedicated service.

How many systems participated in the exercise?

Jimenez: Thirty-five. Six systems underwent a Limited User Test (LUT), and 29 were considered systems under evaluation (SUE). We collected information on each and issued SUE reports two weeks after test completion. Operational Test Command issued an overall network assessment and LUT reports will soon follow. It was a great learning experience. We gained useful insights and will continue to grow. The “Triad” of ATEC, PEO-Integration and the Brigade Modernization Command made this event a success. We worked together effectively.

How will you continue to “grow”?

Jimenez: This exercise has shown us that there is a lot of learning to be gained from systems-of- systems testing with Soldiers. That said, we still must improve our methodologies to get systems programmatically aligned and into test. Also we will get more efficient as we go – streamlining data collection, reduction, report writing and assessing how individual systems’ measures of performance should be weighed in systems-of-systems environments. We’ll no doubt have a better test event with more efficient use of our resources next time.

How are you doing that?

Jimenez: We’ve taken to heart continuous process improvement and are applying the lessons learned from this exercise to the next. Under [ATEC commander] Major General Dellarocco’s guidance, all the senior leadership at ATEC is on the path to becoming Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belts. Right after the NIE, we held a Process Improvement Selection Workshop dedicated to learning what NIE told us about processes and procedures. Everything was on the table, and out of that we initiated a number of actions; rapid improvement events, “just do its” and formal projects to be more efficient going forward.

You’ve been known to talk about the future of Test and Evaluation. What thoughts have you shared?

Jimenez: Remember I’ve been a part of ATEC for just 8 months. I’ve been blessed however to have been the director of two of its major subordinate commands in that short time. But I will share what I’ve observed and the small thoughts I have. First, we have great people, witness today’s event.

“Instead of modeling Operational Mission Summary/Mission Profiles, we are entering the age where actual “use” data will help us set equipment requirements closer to how the field is using the systems and improve system performance.

David Jimenez

Director of the U.S. Army Evaluation Center



All these folks gave an outstanding performance at NIE. They were great partners, coworkers and brethren to the other NIE participants, Brigade Modernization Command, Operational Test Command, the Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division and PEO-Integration. The pace of the activities in NIE was not easy and it did not end out at White Sands Missile Range. Data analysis and report writing continued after they returned to their home station, with quality report products published online two weeks after the exercise. We are capturing the process we used and applying it across the board on the products AEC generates for the Army. Granted two weeks will not be likely across the board; however we look to make marked improvements on how we staff and generate our products.

Second, I read a great article in “Wired” magazine recently: “The End of Theory: The Data Deluge Makes the Scientific Method Obsolete.” We are living in the petabyte age. Some of our network testing and live-fire events generate terabytes of data each that needs to be collected, stored, reduced, analyzed and [have] evaluations on performance inferred from it. If you spend a day on any of our ranges, you will be absolutely amazed at the capabilities of the command to understand performance of the Army’s systems. From understanding blast effects via extremely high speed video, to telemetry analysis, to network traffic behavior or vehicular dynamics, we have the instrumentation and top shelf personnel talent to provide Army leadership the answers they need to make decisions. That said, exercises like NIE show that we need to move forward

in our thinking of how we build upon understanding system behavior toward understanding systems-of-systems behavior. With that we’ll no doubt need to improve on tools and models. Also we need to move quicker on developing simulations that will allow us to understand systems-of-systems behavior on a larger scale economically.

What do you mean by ‘economically’?

Jimenez: Well, bringing out an entire brigade of network equipment to the field is expensive in both human capital and in acquiring systems for test. We could perhaps, with high performance computers, supplement the real equipment with virtual instances of them, greatly expanding learning early in a program’s lifecycle what behavior can be expected from systems-of-systems on a larger scale. Being here at APG with our new tenants has really created opportunities to collaborate further on these matters. Already we have a vibrant dialogue with the C4ISR community at CERDEC, PEO-I, PEO-C3T and IEWS.

What kinds of dialogue?

Jimenez: Well, for example, we have the one of the world’s premiere antenna test ranges at Electronic Proving Ground, on Fort Huachuca, Arizona. CERDEC – Space and Terrestrial Communications has extremely good antenna co-site and performance modeling. Working together, they have the potential to save lots of time and effort in predicting and validating the radio frequency performance of our fleet of vehicles.

In other instances we’ve had dialogue on radar systems testing, instrumentation, network environment stimulation and others, and moving out on initiatives. It’s great when you are in one community on the post and can get to know each other. On another front, collection of live performance data from the field is opening up a whole world of data that feeds analysis of real life performance for the development of new systems. Our Aberdeen Test Center and AMSAA (Army Materiel Systems Analysis Activity) have made great strides in understanding how equipment is actually used in the field. Instead of modeling Operational Mission Summary/Mission Profiles, we are entering the age where actual “use” data will help us set equipment requirements closer to how the field is using the systems and improve system performance. I mentioned before that this could be considered the Petabyte age. Real life data will trump models in some cases.

Do you think that close interaction will help AEC in its mission?

Jimenez: No doubt the Army is to benefit. I keep pushing our ATEC System Team chairs to make friends in the C4ISR community similar to the great long relationships we’ve enjoyed with the survivability, lethality and reliability analysis communities for years. Being able to go over to a lab and see the equipment first hand is changing the dynamics of evaluation. Close interaction among the new APG communities and deep understanding of new technology earlier by the evaluation community will reap great benefits, some of which I can’t quantify yet but I know are coming.

NIE awardees and awards

4-Star Note and coin from Army Chief of Staff Gen. Martin E. Dempsey

Superior Civilian Service Award
Dr. Thomas Cao and Neil Brown

Commander’s Award for Civilian Service
Michael Bush
Dr. Melanie Bragg
Dagnew Meshesha
Terrance Westerfield
Stephen Conley
Andrew Loncarich

Army Commendation Medal
Lt. Col. Steve Kneeland
Lt. Col. Harold Lopez
Maj. Eric Brown
Capt. William Jefferson
Capt. Robert Murray

CW4 Curtis Newkirk
Sgt. 1st Class George Sandlin
Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Calhoun

Army Achievement Medal
Capt. Constance Quinlan
Capt. Carter Deekens
Sgt. 1st Class Shane Machleit

Achievement Medal for Civilian Service
William Stover
Leia Nichols
Megan Keenan
Jeffrey Gilbert
Jeffrey Thomas
Brian Kim
Robert Tan

Certificate of Achievement for Civilian Service
Daniel Bergmans

Brian Whitbeck
Sean Buck
Cindy VanSeeters

NIE Certificate of Appreciation
Jay Riha
David Edwards
Sandy Sheng
Nicole Becker
Jock Grynovicki
Tom Lawson
Dave Harrah
Rick Tauson
Carlton Daniel
Randall Brink
Scott Lambert
Jonathan Reiner
Bruce Marihart
Joseph Wilson
Michael Jones
John Berkey